



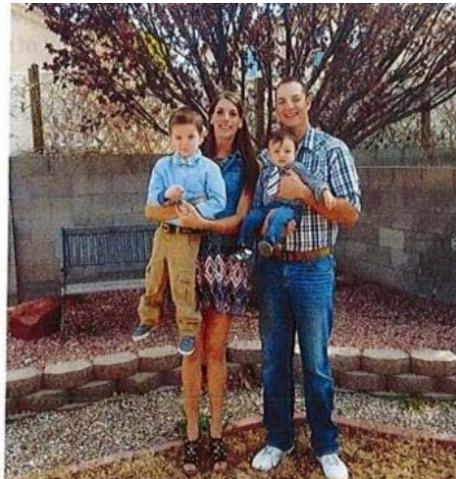
LA VISTA Newsletter - June 30, 2017

Community Response



Our hearts were warmed by these four beautiful letters of gratitude we received, and we knew we had to share them all with you. It is thanks to all of you, who are a part of Los Ojos de la Familia, that we are able to share hope and encouragement with our neighbors in New Mexico.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's Deputy Garland Leatherman



Hello, as most of you may know, it's been one heck of a year for me and my family. June 8th, 2016 was a turning point in my life, when I contracted Guillian-Barre Syndrome, which left me partially paralyzed. That afternoon, I was complaining that I wasn't feeling good, and my body felt tingly all over. That's when

my amazing wife drove me to the Emergency Room and had to carry me in. I remember the look on the nurse's face when my wife sat me in a chair in the waiting room and ran to the nurses and said she needed help with her husband. I thank God the doctors were able to diagnose me quickly and start treatment in a timely manner before the virus spread to my lungs or throat. I was immediately placed into an ambulance (that I was way too long for and took the EMTs a while to figure out how they were going to make me fit inside, while still being able to close the rear doors) and taken to Presbyterian Hospital.

After being treated at Pres for a week, I had lost 40lbs and most all of the muscle to my upper body, leaving me extremely weak and unable to move. My hands were so curled up that I had to have family and nurses continually peel my hands open and stretch them because of the pain. After a week long treatment process, the doctors had determined the virus was neutralized and discharged me from Presbyterian, sending me to Health South to begin the long rehabilitation process. I stayed there for approximately a month, where I was placed on a strict physical therapy program to learn how to use my body once again.

When I entered Health South, I was in a wheelchair and could not get out of bed, walk, or even roll over in bed on my own. After several weeks of intense therapy, I was able to get out of bed with minor assistance and with the help of a walker, begin the extremely long process of learning how to walk again. By the time I was discharged from Health South, I could sit up and stand on both feet out of bed and take very short walks up and down the hallway, using a walker. Of course, the hardest part was trying to find a walker tall enough for me to use. By this time I was beginning to show progress at a very slow rate, but I took what I could get. My hands were starting to loosen up and I could attempt minor things like brushing my teeth and feeding myself.

HOME AT LAST!!! I had dreamed of this place for so long, some days thinking I would never see it again. It was so rewarding to step foot into my house again, and give my family a big hug. I was so happy to see the welcome-home banners my boys colored for me hanging on the wall and furniture rearranged, so that I was able to move around freely with my walker. It took a few days to get used to being back at the house and not having to deal with nurses all day long, but my family did a great job of taking care of me.

to Los Ojos de la Familia - Thank you so much for the financial help you gave to me and my family, during my recovery. I greatly appreciated it. Your group is doing a very special thing for the community, which is so great! Thank you, Garland Leatherman

Metro PAL Community Garden

Metro PAL Mentoring Participants, with partnering First Nations Healthsource, planting the community garden outside of the Metro PAL Recreational Center. Garden will help feed the hungry through the Roadrunner Foodbank. Garden supplies and plants were purchased through a generous grant from Los Ojos De

La Familia.



Ellen Hager

Dear Los Ojos de la Familia Staff and Board Members,

I wanted to take a minute to thank all of you for the scholarship you awarded to my daughter Ellen Hager last summer. Your scholarship helped us cover Ellen's expenses as a freshman at Dartmouth College this year. Ellen is not home from school yet due to the quarter system Dartmouth uses but will be back in Albuquerque soon.



I also thought you might like an update on how your support helped Ellen thrive at college this year. She has maintained excellent grades throughout the year even with taking an intensive math and engineering curriculum. Ellen earned a research internship to work with a professor on Bayesian knowledge and artificial intelligence. (I am not a technical person so I may not have explained this totally correctly). Ellen also became a member of Dartmouth Formula Racing which built a hybrid racecar. She spent a week at a professional raceway helping perfect the car in competition with engineering schools from all over the US and actually a foreign team. I included a picture.

It was funny to hear last month that in choosing a roommate for next year of all the students at school she found another New Mexican and will room with a girl from Pecos. Ellen also let us know yesterday that a project she has been working on with Dartmouth Humanitarian Engineering got approval and funding so she will have the opportunity to spend July in Morocco to work on a project supporting providing motor scooters to poor folks.

Thanks again for all the good work you have done for my daughter and lots of folks in New Mexico,

Kathie Hager

A.Y.D.G. Distribution
WARRIOR BOXING
Cutting Edge Youth Empowerment



We made our 11th quarterly distribution to the Warrior Boxing Cutting Edge Youth Empowerment program, and the following letters from the kids lets us know we are making a real, positive difference in this New Mexico community.

"Thank you Los Ojos de la Familia for helping; my dream is to become a professional boxer. I enjoy myself and learn new things with your help, Love,"
- Elijah Matos (7)

"Boxing is good for me because I get a self defense class and it helps me get in shape. Also because I think it's really fun and time consuming. Thank you for your sponsorship."
- Daniela Carrillo (12)

"I am here at Warrior Boxing to learn to defend myself. I have been bullied by older children at my school and also at the after school program. I need to learn to defend myself. It makes me happy to have the sponsorship because being here helps me become stronger, more confident and happy, and I know hard work pays off. Thank you."
- Henry Yazzie (7)

"To Los Ojos de la Familia, I want to thank you for sponsoring me, for boxing at Warrior Boxing club. I love boxing a lot because it keeps me healthy and out of trouble."
- Lenny Villalba (6)

"I learned that boxing is fun. Boxing is hard work. You can't stop practicing. I like the equipment, it gets my anger out. Thank you for letting me join!"
- Malcolm Bryce (8)

"I am going to win my fight. I am going to do my best. I am trying my best."
- Juaquin Medel (6)

"Boxing is helping me stay fit and healthy. What I am currently working on is speed and need more improvements. This is helping me get stronger and faster (again, working on.) This helps me with self-defense and showing the little kids how to do this better."

- Ivan Watchman

"I do boxing for a living, it's fun. It's a hobby for summer, I love it so much. It also helps me defend myself from bullies and fight for little kids, my family, everything I care for. I also get to teach little kids some stuff. Thank you."

- Sheldon Watchman

"Boxing has made me a better person since I've been in the gym. I had missed a week or two when I got sick, but thanks for helping me be the person I am now. I thank you guys and I hope one day I do become a champion; that's a dream I want to make come true. I also thank my coach Ray for the support."

- Martin Contreras

"Dear Sponsors, I'm having a great time in boxing; I've learned so much at Warrior Boxing. I think it's enjoyable because it keeps you fit, and you get so many tournaments. Thank you for sponsoring our gym; I really appreciate it. I've learned so much already, and I plan to learn more."

- Francisco Lucero

"I have been in the Warrior Boxing program for the last 10 years. Ray Zamora has taught me the art of boxing and has kept me disciplined. Warrior Boxing has always been a great place to be; I enjoy being in the gym and keeping myself out of trouble. I like to thank everyone who has been involved in this program. Also a big thanks to Los Ojos de la Familia for supporting me and helping me be a part of this program. They have helped me stay in the gym, keep working hard, becoming a better person every time I come in."

- Brandon Munoz

and this story is a perfect example of why we do what we do:

"Hi, my name is Cameron Odell, I'm 19-years-old.

Well, I really don't know what to say, so I guess I will start at the beginning, When I was 5-years-old, my mother tried to sell me for money, and she was doing drugs. Then my father went to jail for five years. After my father got out and my grandmother passed away, I had to go back to live with my mother, and I got to tell you, that's when my life went downhill. There were bad people who came to live with my mother and I, and there was a lot of drugs.

Then my father left my sister on the side of the road, and I just got mad as I got older. Now I've moved in with another family, but they treat me like crap and I can't do anything to get the streets out of me. And I'm with them now because I ran away when my mom hit me and stabbed me with a fork; I was done with getting hurt.

I feel boxing will be like a fresh start, to show that I'm not bad, and that I can put my mind at rest, and to know that if I fall, I can get back up."



Stay Connected



Los Ojos de la Familia, 7916 Ranchitos Lp NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113